zotb June CAPTAIN JOHN DAVIS RETURNS TO ENGLAND

Captain John Davis hath returned with some few of his men to Cornwall on the i6th, being but the poor remainder of the company of seventy-six that had left Plymouth on 26th August, 1591, on board the *Desire* with Mr Thomas Cavendish's fleet

After losing sight of Mr Cavendish, their General, on the night of the zoth May, 1592, they had returned to Port Desire, being now in very miserable case, the shrouds all rotten, without pitch, tar or nails, and living only upon seals and mussels Here they remained hoping for sight of the General until 6th August, when they made for the Straits of Magellan, and there stayed, in the deep of winter, with but little victual and not enough clothing to defend the extremity of the winter's cold In these seas they were lamentably driven by storms until on 25th October they came to an island named Penquin Island There the boat was sent on shore, which returned laden with birds' eggs, and the men said that the penquins were so thick that the ships might be laden with them The Captain therefore sent some of the men ashore whilst he sailed the ship up a river in the mainland, where she was run aground and made fast to the shore with running ropes moored to stakes Here nine of their men were slain by savages, but the rest remained feeding on eggs, penquins, young seals, gulls, and other birds In this place they found a herb called scurvy grass which so purged the blood that it took away all lands of swelling, of which many had died, and restored them to perfect health of body

In this harbour they stayed until 22nd December, in which

time they had dried 20,000 penquins on the island, of which 14,000 were taken on board, but not being able to fetch the rest by reason of the dangerous tides, they shaped course for Brazil On 30th January, 1593, they landed at the Isle of Placencia, hoping to surprise the Portugals, but when they came to the houses they were all burnt, so that they thought no man remained on the island Then the Captain went to the gardens and brought thence fruits and roots for the company, and all laboured to put the water casks in order

The 5th February at night many of the men dreamed of murder and slaughter, and the Captain likewise having dreamed